LOCAL & STATE

UCF still looking for a president

As search enters final stretch, a mystery candidate to enter fray. **B1**

SPORTS

Teams, athletes are stepping up

Bianchi: Leagues and franchises are helping in this time of crisis. **C1**

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‘These are unique times’

Disney, Universal hotels close; packed crowds come to say bye

By Gabrielle Russon

Disney and Universal are closing down their hotels and the popular hubs of Disney Springs and University CityWalk, bringing the tourism giants to a complete halt by Friday amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Disney announced the new company plan early Monday morning, hours after the CDC released new guidelines that recommended events with 50 or more people should be postponed or canceled for the next eight weeks.

But by the time the CDC had announced the new guidelines, wall-to-wall crowds gathered at the Magic Kingdom Sunday for a final send-off.

People lined up to see the fireworks show and then packed in front of the train station on Main Street USA an hour later, as Disney characters and Walt Disney

*Please turn to **PARKS, A8***

JOE BURBANK/ORLANDO SENTINEL

Walt Disney World President Josh D'Amaro waves to guests gathered in the final minutes before the Magic Kingdom closed.

Tourism industry losing millions as worries bring travel to a halt

By Jason Garcia

The largest airline in the country said passenger traffic has fallen by more than 1 million travelers and the parent company of the Gaylord Palms hotel and convention said cancellations have already cost it more $130 million in business, as the outlook for the nation's travel industry — and tourism-dependent economies like Orlando's — grows more grim amid the spreading COVID-19 pandemic.

"The bad news is that it's getting worse," United Airlines CEO Oscar Munoz and President Scott Kirby wrote Sunday in a memo to employees. "We expect both the number of customers and revenue to decline sharply in the days and weeks ahead."

The new and highly contagious coronavirus, which has spread rapidly around the globe and

*Please turn to **TOURISM, A8***

Primary still to be held as planned

Many question whether it should be held at all amid virus outbreak

By Steven Lemongello, Lisa Maria Garza and Stephen Hudak

After months of campaigning and canvassing and preparation, Florida is finally set to hold its presidential primary on Tuesday.

But instead of the battle between Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders, the last two Democrats left running for president, the biggest question going into Election Day was whether it should be held at all amid the coronavirus outbreak.

On Monday, Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine — whose state was one of four along with Florida, Arizona and Illinois to jointly announce all would go forward with Tuesday's vote — announced he would try to postpone his state's in-person primary voting to June 2, pending a judge's ruling. (Later Monday night, the Ohio Department of Healthordered the polls closed, despite a judge's ruling).

Minutes later, President Donald Trump issued guidelines to avoid discretionary travel and gatherings of more than 10 people for the next 15 days.

Ohio had not been the first state to shift its primary day. Louisiana postpones its April 4 primary until June 20, and Georgia rescheduled of its presidential primary from March 24 until May 19. Kentucky announced late Monday it was postponing its May 19 primary until June 23.

"This is uncharted territory,"

*Please turn to **PRIMARY, A7***

TRUMP ISSUES NEW GUIDELINES

President Donald Trump, flanked by members of the Coronavirus Task Force, speaks to the media at the White House on Monday. The country has surpassed 3,000 confirmed cases of the new coronavirus, and the death toll climbed to at least 61, with 25 of the deaths associated with the Life Care Center in Kirkland, Washington. The Trump administration's new recommendations include closing schools and avoiding groups of more than 10 people, bars, restaurants and food courts, as well as discretionary travel. The president said the measures would be in place for 15 days. Additional reporting can be found on **A3**.

WIN MCNAMEE/GETTY

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE INSIDE

■ **TV:** WUCF TV will air a special about the impact of the coronavirus on Central Florida's children and families. **A2**

■ **CHINA:** Beijing officials and news outlets have floated unfounded theories that the U.S. was the source of the virus. **A6**

■ **GLOBAL:** Millions began holing up amid rapid-fire border closures announced by one nation after another. **A6**

■ **DISINFORMATION:** The Trump administration alleges a foreign campaign is underway aimed at spreading fear. **A6**

■ **PREP:** AdventHealth hospitals across Central Florida are setting up tents at their facilities to treat potential patients. **A9**

ORLANDO SENTINEL

▲**DISNEY:** The closing of all Disney theme parks has had at least one upside: a massive Food Bank donation. **A8**

■ **TESTING:** After sticking with a strict set of rules, the Florida Department of Health has finally expanded testing criteria. **A9**

■ **UCF:** The school has halted in-person classes, switching over to online ones, with Monday the first day post-break. **A9**

■ **RESPONDERS:** Orlando firefighters are preparing by donning protective gear, decontaminating transport units. **A9**

■ **VACCINE:** Researchers gave the first shot to a person in a test of an experimental vaccine in Seattle. **A10**

■ **BEACHES:** As large portions of the region's tourism economy are affected, it's not evident at the still-packed beaches. **B1**

■ **OIA:** British residents in Central Florida rushing to get flights home are overwhelming international air carriers. **B2**

Second Orange death reported

Demings mulls whether he can close restaurants, bars to reduce outbreak

By Stephen Hudak and Ryan Gillespie

An Orange County resident died of coronavirus over the weekend — the first to succumb to the disease at a local facility — officials said Monday as Orange County Mayor Jerry Demings expressed frustration with a lack of direction from state leaders.

Demings noted in a late afternoon briefing on Monday that the number of COVID-19 cases doubled overnight in Orange County to four and said he isn't seeing clear direction from the state on a number of matters. For example, the mayor is considering whether to shutter bars and restaurants as partygoers would typically celebrate Election Day and St. Patrick's Day on Tuesday.

Demings said he was considering how to respond to a call from President Donald Trump that bars and restaurants close and people avoid gatherings of more than 10. At the same time, county officials are working with the state to use the parking lot of the Orange County Convention Center as a drive-thru testing site for the virus once they receive enough supplies.

"We have to have clear information and once we receive it from the state, then we can do what we have to do here," Demings said, noting he hadn't spoken to Gov. Ron DeSantis directly but has talked with the surgeon general. "But when their decisions are indecisive, there's a ripple effect right down to the local level."

*Please turn to **ORANGE, A9***

YOUR NATION, YOUR WORLD

Captives outsmart terrorist group

Women taken prisoner are resisting, foiling Boko Haram's plans in quiet and often unheralded ways. **A3**

Man sentenced for mass killing

A Japanese court ruled a former care home employee will hang for stabbing to death 19 disabled people. **A3**

Syrians in Idlib fear end is nearing

Disastrous conflict is potentially on the horizon in Idlib, Syria, the last urban area under opposition control. **A4**

EDITOR'S NOTE

Changes in print edition starting today

For more than 140 years — through world wars, wildfires, hurricanes and disease outbreaks — the Orlando Sentinel has always focused on keeping Central Florida safe and well-informed. As we continue our mission of being your trusted source for important news and information, I want to share with you some changes we are making to provide additional space and staffing for coronavirus coverage.

■ Starting today, we are moving the business pages from our main news section to the Sports section to give us extra room for news stories.

■ Since all colleges and professional sports leagues have suspended play, you will see a smaller sports report in print, too, starting today.

■ And with most area entertainment events canceled and the theme parks closed, we will reduce the size of our Friday Calendar section and run those pages in the Sports section.

■ You will also likely see news stories in the coming days written by some of our sports and entertainment reporters as we focus on making sure we can provide the latest information during this pandemic.

We thank you for being an Orlando Sentinel reader (and hopefully a subscriber!). You can count on us to help our community make it through this crisis, just as we have always done since 1876.

Roger Simmons,
Managing Editor

INSIDE

A note from the publisher

Our priority remains serving our readers and keeping our employees safe. We are committed to our mission to keep you informed in timely, relevant and credible print and digital coverage.

This is a very challenging time for all of us, and we thank you for your support. Please continue to stay safe.

*For Nancy Meyer's full note to readers, please turn to **B1.***

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